

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet comprising a substrate having a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on at least one side thereof, wherein the whole of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is formed of an aqueous dispersion ~~type~~—pressure-sensitive adhesive composition containing, as a base polymer, (A) an acrylic polymer containing a (meth)acrylic acid C₄₋₁₂ alkyl ester as the major monomer component; and in a surface portion of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer within the range of up to 3 nm inward from the outer face of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, (B) an anionic emulsifier containing a sulfur atom is contained in a proportion of from 0.1 to 3 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the whole of the monomer components constituting the acrylic polymer (A) that forms the surface portion of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, and (C) at least one hydrophilic polymer selected from a homopolymer of polyalkylene-glycolsglycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, and poly-(meth)acrylic acid is contained in a proportion of from 0.5 to 15 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of non-volatile matters in the aqueous dispersion ~~type~~—pressure-sensitive adhesive composition of the whole of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is added as an aqueous solution after the polymerization of the acrylic polymer.

2. (currently amended): The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet according to claim 1, wherein the anionic emulsifier (B) containing a sulfur atom is at least one sulfur atom-containing anionic emulsifier selected from alkyl sulfate ~~type~~—anionic emulsifiers,

polyoxyethylene alkyl ether sulfate ~~type~~-anionic emulsifiers, polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl ether sulfate ~~type~~-anionic emulsifiers, sulfonate ~~type~~-anionic emulsifiers, and sulfosuccinic acid ~~type~~ anionic emulsifiers.

3. (currently amended): The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of the anionic emulsifier (B) containing a sulfur atom in the whole of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is from 0.5 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the whole of the monomer components constituting the acrylic polymer (A) according to the aqueous dispersion ~~type~~-pressure-sensitive adhesive composition of the whole of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

4. (original): The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet according to claim 1, wherein in the surface portion of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer within the range of up to 3 nm inward from the outer face of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, a ratio of sulfur element by the ESCA measurement is less than 1 atomic %.

5. (currently amended): The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet according to claim 1, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer on one side of the substrate has a multilayered structure; an outermost layer of the multilayered pressure-sensitive adhesive layer has a thickness of from 1 to 5 μm and contains the anionic emulsifier (B) containing a sulfur atom in a proportion of from 0.1 to 3 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the whole of the monomer components constituting the acrylic polymer (A) that forms the outermost layer of the multilayered pressure-sensitive adhesive layer; and the multilayered pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, as a whole, contains (i) the anionic emulsifier (B) containing a sulfur atom in a proportion of from 0.5 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the whole of the monomer components constituting the acrylic polymer (A) that forms the multilayered pressure-

sensitive adhesive layer and (ii) the hydrophilic polymer (C) in a proportion of from 0.5 to 15 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of non-volatile matters in the aqueous dispersion type pressure-sensitive adhesive composition that forms the multilayered pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

6. (currently amended): The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet according to claim 1, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is formed of the aqueous dispersion type pressure-sensitive adhesive composition containing the anionic emulsifier (B) containing a sulfur atom in a proportion of from 3 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the whole of the monomer components constituting the acrylic polymer (A); and in the surface portion of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer within the range of up to 3 nm inward from the outer face of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, the anionic emulsifier (B) containing a sulfur atom is contained in a proportion of from 0.1 to 3 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the whole of the monomer components constituting the acrylic polymer (A) that forms the surface portion of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

7. (original): The pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or sheet according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is a porous substrate.